

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3174

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1360

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, NL

SUBJECT: IRANIAN DUTCH DISPUTE

REF: TEHRAN'S 2086

1. ON MARCH 14 I PASSED ON GIST OF AMB. HELM'S TIMELY AND USEFUL MESSAGE TO FON OFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN LYNDEN WHO SAID THAT THIS WAS FIRST INDICATOR DUTCH HAD RECEIVED THAT TROUBLE WAS BREWING. FON OFF GRATEFUL TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES FOR CONFIDING THIS INFORMATION TO THE GON.

2. MATTER HIT THE PRESS FULL SCALE THIS MORNING (MARCH 16) WITH BANNER HEADLINES. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM THIS AFTERNOON FONOFF S.Y.G. SCHIFF SAID GON WAS ENCOURAGED BY DEPARTMENT'S FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO APPROACH BY NETHERLANDS EMBASSY. LATTER HAS REPORTED TO THE HAGUE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ASK EMBASSY TEHRAN IF THERE WAS ANY WAY IT COULD BE HELPFUL IN MITIGATING THE SHAH'S REACTION.

3. SCHIFF ALSO SAID THAT AMBASSADOR FARZANEGAN, IN HIS SECOND MEETING WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL LAST NIGHT (MARCH 15) AND IN HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL THIS MORNING, SEEMED TO BE CALMING DOWN A BIT FROM WHAT DUTCH CONSIDERED TO BE AN OVER REACTION. FARZANEGAN TOLD DEN UYL THAT ONLY HE WOULD BE LEAVING (SCHIFF DID NOT SAY FOR HOW LONG) AND THE REST OF THE STAFF WOULD STAY PUT.

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4. SCHIFF SAID GON IS ALSO HOPING FOR SOME RESULTS FROM CALL ON THE SHAH WHICH NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE TO PRESENT "FORMAL APOLOGIES" OF GON. SCHIFF DESCRIBED THIS AS SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY FOR THE DUTCH (THE USUAL THING IS A RATHER PROFORMA EXPRESSION OF REGRETS BY THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL). SCHIFF ASKED THAT DUTCH AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH BE HELD VERY CLOSELY.

5. DEPARTMENT SHOULD KNOW THAT FARZANEGAN IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS SEVERAL "AMERICAN CONNECTIONS". HIS TWO PROFESSOR SONS AND HIS DAUGHTER LIVE PERMANENTLY IN THE U.S. FARZANEGAN ALSO OWNS A HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, WHERE HE HOPES TO RETIRE. FARZANEGAN, A FORMER GENERAL AND IRANIAN JUNIOR CABINET MEMBER, RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING IN THE U.S. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO US WITH PRIDE THAT HE MET PRESIDENT NIXON WHEN LATTER VISITED TEHRAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

6. I AM ON QUITE FRIENDLY TERMS WITH FARZANEGAN AND COULD APPROACH HIM EASILY IF DEPARTMENT SO DESIRES. BY COINCIDENCE HE IS DUE TO DINE WITH ME ON MONDAY. WE PRESUME THAT THE COLOR OF FARZANEGAN'S REPORTING HAS INFLUENCED AND WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE SHAH'S ULTIMATE DECISION ON THIS MATTER. WE PLAN TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE GON AS SCHIFF INVITED ME TO DO. AS WE SEE IT, IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO ASSIST IN POURING OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS BETWEEN THESE TWO GOOD FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES. THE NETHERLANDS IS DEPENDENT ON IRAN FOR TWO THIRDS OF ITS OIL SUPPLY DURING ARAB OIL BOYCOTT. WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION HERE THAT SHAH'S DISPLEASURE MIGHT EXTEND TO THIS CRUCIAL SITUATION, IT IS ONE MORE REASON TO DE-ESCALATE THE PROBLEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

7. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO USE NIACT IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE ON ANY MESSAGE WHICH IT WISHES EMBASSY TO SEE OR ACT ON PRIOR TO OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 18.
GOULD

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